

District of Columbia and his wife, Diane. Following his remarks, the President signed and presented to the King family a commemorative copy of the Martin Luther King,

Jr., Federal Holiday proclamation of January 17, which is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on Continued Operations of United States Forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina

January 21, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In my report to the Congress of July 24, 2001, I provided information on the deployment of combat-equipped U.S. Armed Forces to Bosnia and Herzegovina and other states in the region in order to participate in and support the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)-led Stabilization Force (SFOR). The SFOR began its mission and assumed authority from the NATO-led Implementation Force on December 20, 1996. I am providing this supplemental report, based upon information provided to me and consistent with the War Powers Resolution (P.L. 93-148), to help ensure that the Congress is kept fully informed on continued U.S. contributions in support of peacekeeping efforts in the former Yugoslavia.

The U.N. Security Council authorized Member States to continue SFOR for a period of 12 months in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1357 of June 21, 2001. The mission of SFOR is to provide a focused military presence in order to deter hostilities, stabilize, and consolidate the peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, contribute to a secure environment, and provide, within its means and capabilities, selective support to key areas and key civil implementation organizations.

The U.S. force contribution to SFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina is approximately 3,100 personnel. United States personnel comprise just under 18 percent of the total SFOR force of approximately 17,500 personnel. During the last half of 2001, 19

NATO nations and 17 others, including Russia, provided military personnel or other support to SFOR. Most U.S. forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina are assigned to Multinational Division, North, centered in the city of Tuzla. Other U.S. military personnel are deployed to other countries in the region in support of SFOR. These deployments include approximately 50 U.S. military personnel presently deployed to Hungary and Croatia in order to provide logistical and other support. The U.S. forces continue to support SFOR efforts to apprehend persons indicted for war crimes. In the last 6 months, U.S. forces have not sustained any combat-related fatalities.

I have directed the participation of U.S. Armed Forces in these operations pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive.

I am providing this report as part of my efforts to keep the Congress fully informed about developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina and other states in the region. I will continue to consult closely with the Congress regarding our efforts to foster peace and stability in the former Yugoslavia.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate. This letter was

released by the Office of the Press Secretary
on January 22.

Remarks on Arrival in Charleston, West Virginia *January 22, 2002*

The President. Thank you all. It's nice to be back. I appreciate this West Virginia welcome. Thank you for your hospitality, and thank you for giving me a chance to give you a little update on how we're doing as a nation.

But first, before I begin, I want to thank our friend, a great friend to West Virginia, Shelley Moore Capito, for her leadership. I've learned some things about Shelley Moore: One, she's very bright; two, she doesn't always do what the President says—she's got a little bit of an independent streak; but three, she loves West Virginia. She loves the State, and she's working hard to do what's right for the West Virginia people. And I'm proud to call her friend. And I hope you're proud to call her Congresswoman.

It's been a pleasure to work with some of the distinguished Members you have sent to Washington, DC, and there's no more distinguished than Senator Robert Byrd. He loves his State; he loves the country. I have been spellbound by his speeches. I've been interested to hear his points of view. I look forward to working with him as Congress comes back to Washington, DC, after the Christmas break. West Virginia has got a fine friend in Senator Byrd, and so does America, and I'm proud to call him friend.

And I appreciate your Governor being here today, Governor Wise. It's awfully kind of him to come and say hello to the President. We're working closely together on a subject that's dear to your heart and dear to my heart, and that's how to make sure West Virginia, and all of America, remains safe, make sure we've got a home-

land that's secure. And the Governor is working closely on this issue with us.

I appreciate so very much the former Governor, Cecil Underwood, and my friend, for being here. I don't know if they put Cecil into "Ripley's" or not—[laughter]—but he was the youngest Governor ever and the oldest Governor ever, and he's still looking pretty spry to me.

I appreciate the Speaker and the Senate President, as well as the minority leaders in the Senate and the House for coming. Thank you all for being here to say hello. And your mayor showed up. Mr. Mayor, thanks for coming, as well. It's an honor to be with my fellow citizens from West Virginia on such a beautiful day. And it's a day for me to tell you, folks, we're winning.

Little did I realize the last time I was here that I would be coming back to this very spot to thank the fine men and women of the West Virginia Guard for helping us fight and win the war against terror—all of you. For all who wear our uniform, I want to thank—say thank you on behalf of all Americans. For the moms and dads and wives and husbands and sons and daughters of those who wear the uniform—some of whom had been deployed out of West Virginia—thanks from the bottom of our hearts for your sacrifice. It is for a cause that is noble and a cause that is just and a cause that this great Nation will win.

I appreciate the fact that our Nation is now on alert, that we're ready, that if you see something odd happening in your neighborhood, that you now know to go